



REPORT

From the office of the...

MSU Maccess

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Alex Wilson
SUBJECT: MSU Maccess Report 1
DATE: Monday February 8th 2016

UPDATE (small year plan)

During the first four months of operation (January to April) there are 8 goals that I would like to either complete or make substantial progress on. The below report outlines these goals, work to date, and timelines moving forward.

1. Hiring a volunteer team
2. **Acquiring a Permanent Service Space**
3. Designing the Maccess Website
4. Design of a service logo and development of social media
5. Review and Revision of MSU Accessibility policies
6. Building Partnerships with Student Accessibility Services, MIETL, Student Wellness Centre, Human Rights and Equity Services, and the Hamilton Mad Students Collective
7. Determine the role of Maccess in Welcome Week
8. Develop a rough outline of the events and campaigns taking place next year as well as services offered

1. *Hiring a volunteer team.*

This has been one of my current focuses and I am excited that the work on this initiative is almost complete. I have a strong idea of what the both the executive team of Maccess and volunteers will look like. I am currently working with the VP admin and Jess Bauman, as well as reviewing all relevant existing job descriptions to create Job descriptions by the end of February. Exec Applications will remain open for all of March and interviews will take place late March early April. Service volunteers will be hired in late August through to early September.

2. *Acquiring a Permanent Service Space.*

This is important. While being cognizant that as an organization we are deficient on space. The full operation of Maccess in September is the reason behind the 16 month contract. It is my opinion that a permanent service space is necessary to this. I will be coming to EB in the next two weeks with the VP administration to present on the need for a space and unique requirements for this space.

3. *Designing of the Maccess Website.*

The website currently refers users to the abilities pillar of Diversity Services. It is my goal to have a fully accessible website with a unique resource tab that has hundreds of resources available by September. I think that it is important that we redefine resources are not just referrals, they can be educational content, steps on how to be an Ally, etc. This initiative is currently on the back burner as service space and job descriptions are more pressing at the moment. In addition, the University is hiring a web accessibility specialist who I plan to consult with heavily before making large plans for the website. This goal will shift to become a goal in march and be worked on throughout the summer.

4. *Design of a service logo and Development of Social Media.*

I am currently working with Michael Wooder intermittently to design a logo for the service. First drafts came out today.

5. *Review and Revision of MSU Accessibility Policies.*

It has become apparent that the current Accessibility general policy is problematic in terms of scope and would benefit from being separated into a general policy and an operations policy. The accessibility general policy will remain largely as is but will be have operations clauses removed and advocacy goals update to our current needs. I will be working with both Blake and Miranda to revise and pass these respective policies which will ideally be passed before early March.

6. *Building Partnerships with Student Accessibility Services, MIETL, Student Wellness Centre, Human Rights and Equity Services, and the Hamilton Mad Students Collective.*

Most of my time every week is spent meeting with relevant University stakeholders and discussing how we can collaborate moving forward. I am currently representing the MSU at the Access and Accommodation and Mental Health Equity and Inclusion PACBIC working groups. In addition, I meet with the Accessibility Specialist in HRES twice a month to ensure service work and design meets best practices. In the coming weeks I hope to touch base with Tim Nolan from SAS and the Counselling team in Student Wellness. I've also been attending HMSC events as frequently as possible to build community ties. We will be hosting a joint event during this year's MacTalks campaign.

7. *Determine the role of Maccess During Welcome Week.*

Strategic Priority Planning Committees will be meeting soon and I hope to sit on relevant working groups to represent the MSU and Maccess.

8. *Develop a rough outline of the events and campaigns taking place next year as well as services offered.*

While some initial planning has been done most of this work will occur later in my term and in collaboration with the soon to be hired Executive team.

BUDGET

Maccess has no budget for this year. Operating costs like logo design are coming from executive budget lines and costs for the Maccess event during MacTalks will be covered by the University Affairs budget.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

There is no defined goals or externally set checkpoints to reach. I'm currently working towards having a functional service for September but what that means is currently up to me. Having some more administrative oversight/check-ins may be wise for future new services.

It is difficult to plan what services Maccess will offer and what niche we will occupy when much is still uncertain about the resources available. While I know I will be consulted in designing the budget for next year I have concerns about the potentiality of not having a permanent space to operate out of. It is in my opinion, that a permanent service space is essential for Maccess to hit the ground running in September.

SUCSESSES

Meeting with stakeholders and building community relationships is what I have not only enjoyed the most but found to be the most rewarding and productive moving forward. I believe the close relationship between Maccess and HRES will continue to grow throughout my term and will set an important foundation moving forward.